

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 04477 01 OF 02 171906Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----171918Z 087947 /42

R 171807Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1661
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 04477

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, ET
SUBJECT: ETHIOPIA: GENERAL NEGA AND THE EDU

SUMMARY: ETHIOPIA DEMOCRATIC UNION LEADER GENERAL NEGA
TEGEGNE SAYS HIS ORGANIZATION HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT MILI-
TARY AND POLITICAL GAINS IN TIGRE, WALLO AND BAGEMEDER
PROVINCES. HE IS TROUBLED BY REPORTS OF A MORATORIUM
BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA, FATHERED BY CASTRO, WHICH
WILL ALLOW NEW EPMG UNITS TO BE DEPLOYED AGAINST HIM. HE
FEARS THE EDU'S RECENT GAINS MAY SLIP AWAY IF HE DOES NOT
RECEIVE AT LEAST MODEST OUTSIDE SUPPORT SOON. IF THE
UNITED STATES CANNOT PROVIDE THE AID, HE ASKS THAT WE IN-
FORM FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS THAT WE HAVE NO OBJECTION IF
THEY ASSIST EDU. END SUMMARY

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LONDON 04477 01 OF 02 171906Z

1. EMBASSY OFFICER HAS SEEN EDU GENERAL NEQA TEGEGNE
TWICE THIS WEEK FOR A DESCRIPTION OF HIS MOVEMENT'S
EFFORTS AND CONCERNS IN ETHIOPIA. NEGA EXPLAINED FRANKLY
THAT EDU HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN ETHIOPIA'S
NORTHERN PROVINCES BUT THAT THE ORGANIZATION LACKS THE
SUPPLIES AND LOGISTICAL CAPACITY TO CAPITALIZE ON ITS
SUCCESES AND THE GOVERNMENT'S FAILURES. MOREOVER, HE

NOW UNDERSTANDS THAT FIDEL CASTRO HAS ACTED AS AN INTER-MEDIARY BETWEEN ADDIS ABABA AND MOGADISCIO, AND THAT WITH THE CONSEQUENT REDUCTION OF TENSION IN THE OGADEN THE DERGUE PLANS TO TRANSFER TWO BRIGADES OF THE THIRD DIVISION TO THE GONDAR AREA. WITH POOR SUPPORT AND NEW OP-
PONENTS, THE EDU MILITARY EFFORT IS FACING ITS MOST
SERIOUS CHALLENGE.

2. NEGA SAID THE EDU'S SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT VICTORY CAME SIX WEEKS AGO IN THE BORDER TOWN OF HUMERA WHERE, AFTER LIMITED FIGHTING AND A SIEGE OF SEVERAL DAYS, THE GARRISON DEFECTED TO ITS ADVERSARIES. THE EDU ACQUIRED SOME UP-TO-DATE WEAPONS AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, DEMONSTRATED ITS ABILITY TO CONFRONT THE ETHIOPIAN ARMY. NEGA PREDICTED THAT THE TOWN OF METEMMA IS ABOUT TO FALL AND WOULD BE IN EDU HANDS NOW WERE IT NOT FOR AIR STRIKES. IN ALL, NEGA SAID HIS FORCES HAVE CAPTURED FORTY-THREE ADMINISTRATIVE POINTS. HE CLAIMS TO HOLD THE ROAD NORTH OF GONDAR TO TIGRE WITH RECENT VICTORIES AT DEBARK, DEBAT, AND AMBA GIRORGES. TEN THOUSAND SUPPORTERS ARE UNDER RUSTY ARMS, THE GENERAL SAID, AND DEFECTIONS HAVE FINALLY GIVEN HIM SOME COMPETENT OFFICERS AND AN EFFECTIVE STAFF. (NEGA THEN DECRIED THE MANY ETHIOPIANS WHO SUPPORT EDU AND WHO COULD OFFER SO MUCH TO THE MOVEMENT BUT WHO PREFER INSTEAD THE COMFORTS OF EUROPEAN EXILE.) AND EDU HAS TAKEN FIRST STEPS TOWARDS CIVIC ORGANIZATION AT THE VILLAGE AND DISTRICT LEVELS IN THE TERRITORY IT CONTROLS, NEGA EXPLAINED. REGULAR EDU RADIO BROADCASTS FROM
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 LONDON 04477 01 OF 02 171906Z

KHARTOUM HAVE HAD A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT IN DESCRIBING THE MOVEMENT'S PROGRAMS AND IN ATTRACTING SUPPORTERS TO THE EDU BANNER.

3. NEGA SAID ETHIOPIA'S NORTHERN FOUR PROVINCES ARE NOW BEYOND THE DERGUE'S CONTROL. COOPERATION WITH ERITREAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATIONS IS GROWING, AND THE POPULATIONS OF TIGRE, WALLO, AND BAGEMEDER GIVE ALMOST COMPLETE SUPPORT TO EDU (HE DISMISSED THE TIGRE LIBERATION FRONT AS A NARROW BUT WELL-FUNDED GROUP). THE GENERAL IS CONFIDENT THAT BOTH GOJJAM AND WALLAGA ARE PREPARED TO BACK EDU AND HE HAS RECEIVED ELDERS FROM THOSE PROVINCES. BUT, HE SAYS, HE MUST BE ABLE TO OFFER WEAPONS TO THESE NEW ALLIES OR THEY WILL REGARD EDU AS A BLUFF.

4. AGAIN AND AGAIN, NEGA RETURNED TO THE AMERICAN ROLE IN THE HORN. HIS REQUESTS, HE SAID, ARE SIMPLE: RIFLES, MACHINE GUNS, AMMUNITION, CLOTHING, MEDICAL SUPPLIES-- NOTHING SOPHISTICATED. THERE HAS BEEN LIMITED HELP FROM

SOME COUNTRIES (HE MENTIONED CONFIDENTIALLY 20,000 POUNDS

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 04477 02 OF 02 171903Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----171925Z 087879 /42

R 171807Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1662
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 04477

EXDIS

FROM THE SUDAN) BUT THE FIRST QUESTION FROM EVERY SYMPA-
THETIC GOVERNMENT IS, "WHAT DO THE AMERICANS THINK?" NEGA
ASKED THAT IF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL NOT DIRECTLY AID
THE EDU, THEN THE LEAST WE COULD DO WOULD BE TO LET THE
SAUDIS, THE IRANIANS, AND THE EGYPTIANS KNOW THAT WE HAVE
NO OBJECTION IF THEY GIVE SUPPORT TO HIS ORGANIZATION.
OUR SILENCE, NEGA CLAIMED, IS INTERPRETED ELSEWHERE AS
DISAPPROVAL. ETHIOPIA IS CLEARLY FALLING APART AS HE HAS
LONG PREDICTED, NEGA CONTINUED, AND THE POLITICS OF THE
HORN ARE BECOMING INTERNATIONALIZED AT THE EXPENSE OF
WESTERN INTERESTS. HE CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE UNITED
STATES REMAINS PASSIVE AND THEREFORE AN OBSTRUCTION TO
THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE LEADERSHIP AVAILABLE TO THE ETHIOPIAN
PEOPLE.

5. COMMENT: WE HAVE SEEN NEGA SEVERAL TIMES IN THE LAST
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LONDON 04477 02 OF 02 171903Z

YEAR AND A HALF. HE IS A PASSIONATE, DEVOTED, INTENSE
ASCETIC MAN WHOSE WIFE LANGUISHES IN AN ADDIS PRISON AND
WHO HAS SPENT LONG, MALARIAL DAYS IN THE ETHIOPIAN
MOUNTAINS, A KAZANZAKIS CHARACTER. WE HAVE TOLD NEGA THAT
THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CANNOT BECOME INVOLVED IN FACTIONAL
RIVALRIES IN ETHIOPIA, A POSITION WHICH HE DOES NOT TAKE
SERIOUSLY. AMERICA IS INVOLVED ALMOST BY DEFINITION' HE
WOULD ARGUE, AND HE DOES NOT BELIEVE HE IS ASKING VERY
MUCH OF US. NEGA IS RETURNING TO NORTHERN ETHIOPIA
SHORTLY.

SPIERS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECESSION, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LONDON04477
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770092-0132
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770350/aaaabrgn.tel
Line Count: 186
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 65247db6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3081456
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ETHIOPIA: GENERAL NEGA AND THE EDU SUMMARY: ETHIOPIA DEMOCRATIC UNION LEADER GENERAL NEGA TEGEGNE SAYS HIS ORGANIZATION HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, ET, (NEGA TEGEGNE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/65247db6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009